FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

30 JANUARY 1985

Lebanon

Karami in Damascus — Prime Minister Rashid Karami held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on recent developments in the Lebanese situation, including current efforts to secure Israel's withdrawal without delay, Damascus radio reported. The suspension of the Al-Naqurah negotiations and Israel's announcement of its "partial withdrawal" topped the agenda of their talks, according to Beirut radio. Karami also met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese Public Works and Transport Minister Walid Junblatt to discuss the security situation in Beirut and the Al-Kharrub region, Beirut radio noted. Earlier, in remarks broadcast by the radio, Karami reaffirmed Lebanon's opposition to the deployment of UNIFIL north of the Al-Litani River, adding that UNIFIL should only be deployed along the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Security Situation — Both the Phalangist Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party have "completely evacuated" their military positions in the Al-Kharrub region, according to a Phalangist security official cited by Voice of Lebanon radio. However, the radio also reported that around 2,000 armed Palestinians recently entered the Al-Kharrub and Al-Shuf regions.

Iran-Iraq War

Although IRNA reported that over 200 Iraqi soldiers were killed in Iraq's 27-28 January attack on Majnun Island, an Iraqi commander cited by INA contended that Iraqi casualties amounted to 7 wounded. He also said the Iranians subsequently launched five abortive attempts to retake positions captured by the Iraqis. Meanwhile, an Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio warned Iraq not to retaliate for its "complete defeat" at Majnun by attacking civilian targets. In another development, Iraq's President Saddam Husayn ordered the release of the last group of POW's to the International Red Cross committee, according to an official statement cited by Voice of the Masses radio.

As for the Gulf, an Iranian Supreme Defense Council spokesman, in an IRNA interview, accused Iraq of trying to draw other Gulf states into the war by spreading its attacks southward.

Tabah Talks

After 3 days of talks on the Tabah issue in Beersheba, Israel and Egypt were unable to reach agreement on the sovereignty issue or Egypt's demand for international arbitration, Jerusalem radio reported. The two sides did agree on some aspects of the MFO's role in the area, the radio noted. Egypt and Israel also agreed to continue talks in the next few weeks, according to IDF radio.

Western Sahara

A Saharan Information Ministry statement cited by Algiers radio expressed concern over alleged Moroccan-U.S. joint military maneuvers in the Moroccan border region close to the Western Sahara.

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Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society Officials Meet

LD290800 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Kabul, January 28, BAKHTAR — 'Abdol Majid Sarboland, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA and vice-president of Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, had a meeting with A. Aliyev, vice-president of the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Society and the head of a delegation of the Union of the Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

They talked on matters of mutual [word indistinct] as well as on furthering cooperation between the two friendship societies.

The delegation is here to participate in the celebrations of 25th founding anniversary of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society.

Council of Ministers Discusses Plan Fulfillment

LD292315 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The BAKHTAR Information Agency reports that in a recent plenary session, the DRA Council of Ministers discussed topics concerning the implementation of the DRA socioeconomic development plan and budget during the 9 months of 1363 [1363 began 20 March, 1984]. The results of discussion and assessment in this regard show that in the process of the country's consistent relative growth, a majority of indices have been realised in accordance with the plan and some have been exceeded.

The overfulfillment of the following plan goals are worth mentioning: the production of cereals, including wheat, barley, and corn, and the goals for sugar cane, oil-producing plants, vegetables, melons, and fruits have been completely realized. The distribution of insecticides and pesticides to the country's farmers and livestock breeders were performed 57 percent above plan, a growth of 68 percent in comparison with the same period last year. The area activity of mechanized agricultural stations has been realized 40 percent above plan and 38 percent above that realized during the same 9 months last year.

The sale of surplus products of cooperatives in domestic and foreign markets, in comparison to the same period last year, has been increased 2.2 times. The growth in the production value of 50 articles of industrial products included in the plan shows an increase of 7 percent compared with the same period last year: natural gas — 3.8 percent; chemical fertilizer — 18.4 percent; building stones — 8.2 percent; reinforced concrete — 2.6 percent; bread and bread products — 8 percent; meat — 15.4 percent; printing industry — 21.8 percent; and carpentry — 2.2 times more than plan has been realized.

There has been an increase of 5.5 percent in state transport over plan which shows an increase of 28 percent in comparison with the same period last year.

Literacy activities have been realized 7.4 percent above plan and 61 percent compared with last year.

The plan for state budget income has been realized 110.5 percent, from which internal resources show an increase of 9.8 percent more than plan and 15.9 percent in comparison with last year.

In the course of assessing the results of the realization of the state plan and budget during the 9 months of 1363, it was stated that the DRA Government and its relevant organs have achieved definite successes in pursuing the realization of the PDPA action program and the PDPA Central Committee plenum resolutions concerning the growth of the economy and culture in the country during the 9 months of the current year. The collectives of the departments, administrations, and enterprises have also displayed good examples of creative activity through the expansion of work competitions on the occasion of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA.

BAKHTAR adds that the Council of Ministers also outlined defects and shortcomings in the work of the ministries, departments, and establishments concerning the implementation of the state plan and budget during the 9 months of the current year and recommended specific tasks for their elimination.

Politburo's Ziray Makes Inspection Trip to Herat

LD292128 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the party Central Committee, took part in a joint meeting of the Herat Province party and state organs and spoke about the social and economic policies of the party and the state.

Saleh Muhammad Ziray also assessed the work of the meeting and issued instructions to the party's responsible officials in the province concerning the realization of the tasks entrusted to them in implementing the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee plenum and other party and state documents.

Saleh Muhammad Ziray returned to Kabul yesterday afternoon after inspecting joint party and state activities in Herat and the province's socioeconomic performance.

Delegation Attends Former Rebel's Funeral

LD291744 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Our compatriots are aware that those who, for various reasons, once stood in the ranks of the enemies of the revolution and homeland, after realizing the truth of the revolution, came on the side of the revolutionary authority. A large number of them, together with the country's courageous Armed Forces, are fighting heroically against the counterrevolutionary bands.

One such man was Sher Aqa Chunghar, who, after the victory of the new development stage of the April revolution, stood in the ranks of the revolution in Herat Province and fought courageously side by side with the DRA Armed Forces against the mercenary counterrevolutionary bands in this province while earnestly defending the gains of the revolution.

Regrettably, we recently received a report that Sher Aqa Chunghar was martyred while serving the people, homeland, and the revolution, during a struggle against the savage counterrevolutionaries.

To God we belong, him we return. [Koranic verse]

According to another report, an authoritative delegation left Kabul for Herat and attended his funeral.

On behalf of the DRA Government, the delegation expressed the profound condolences of the party and government to his family.

The delegation gave an assurance to the family and friends of Sher Aqa Chunghar that they enjoy and will continue to enjoy full support and assistance from the government.

Reportage on Anti-Government Mujahidin Operations

'Nearly 150' Soviets Killed

LD291958 Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 27 Jan 85

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 29, SPA — Nearly 150 Russian soldiers were killed and a Soviet helicopter shot down by Afghan mujahidin on January 25 in battles in (Shomali) region of Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The sources said bodies of dead Soviet soldiers were flown to Moscow through a nearby Bagram air-base from Golbahar and Kuhestan areas, which were the scene of fierce battles.

In another encounter, further north-east in strategic Panjsher Valley, on January 14 , the mujahidin succeeded in attacking a Soviet garrison at (Khenjan), destroying six trucks.

During the last week, the sources said heavy fighting continued in eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Paktia and Konarha.

On January 25, mujahidin attacked Soviet barracks outside Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, killing a number of Russians.

They added that Kabul was quiet with an exception of a bomb explosion of a military hospital on January 22, killing four people.

On the other hand, the Afghan freedom fighters conducted different guerilla operations in Helmand, southern province of Afghanistan, which resulted in killing of 15 Soviet Karmal troops.

A report from London quoted mujahidin sources as saying that the freedom fighters ambushed Soviet Karmal forces in Yakhchal area of Grishk sub-division and destroyed a tank by rocket launchers, besides killing six Soviet Karmal soldiers.

On the other hand, nine Soviet Karmal soldiers were killed when the freedom fighters had a fierce clash with the Soviet Karmal forces on Qandahar-Herat highway near Grishk on January 13.

KYODO Reports Rebel Successes

OW300149 Tokyo KYODO in English 0115 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 29 KYODO — A strong joint Soviet-Afghan force of 10,000 men moving in the direction of Chamkani border post in Paktia Province has been halted, rebel news agency AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) reported Tuesday.

The agency said the Soviet-Afghan force was engaged by the Afghan freedom fighters while it was trying to enter the area via Lasza Khola mountain pass. The enemy has given up its effort and retreated to the other side of the mountain, it said.

The movement of the strong Soviet-Afghan force from Gardez toward Chamkani was also reported by other rebel sources from the border city of Peshawar, where Afghan guerrilla groups have their headquarters.

AIP also reported the raid by Afghan resistance forces led by Lt. Col. Aqa Muhammad on the 18th Regiment of Chamkani District on January 23 in which ground-to-ground missiles were fired with precise accuracy.

Newly built barracks, arms and ammunitions depot, meeting room of the Soviet advisors and headquarters building, were extensively damaged during the operation, it said.

American correspondent Charles F. Hasche also witnessed the whole operation, the agency claimed.

Meanwhile, Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad reported Tuesday that the Soviet occupation forces were planning another drive in the Panjsher Valley to dislodge Afghan guerrillas from some parts of the strategic valley.

They based their reports on information that a large Soviet convoy had moved out of the Afghan capital last week in the general direction of Panjsher Valley, about 100 kilometers northeast of Kabul.

Again on January 25, a force of about 3,000 Soviet soldiers was seen weaving through Kabul, bound for Panjsher, the sources said.

Soviet forces had captured the lower part of the Panjsher Valley from Afghan resistance in the Panjsher-seven offensive launched in April, 1984, but the mojahedin (freedom fighters) of legendary Commander Mas'ud were still holding the upper reaches of the valley.

The Afghan resistance is also reported to have killed nearly 150 Soviet soldiers in attacks on Soviet positions near Gulbahar at the mouth of the valley on January 25. Earlier, six trucks were destroyed in an ambush on the Soviet positions at Khinj, in the middle of the valley.

Heavy fighting has also been reported from three of Afghanistan's eastern provinces of Konarha, Nangarhar and Paktia bordering Pakistan, apparently in a concerted bid to halt mujahidin infiltration into Afghanistan.

In Konarha Province, the siege by resistance forces of the Barikowt garrison was continuing effectively and the Western diplomatic sources were of the view that the Kabul charge last week about alleged firing of mortars, recoilless rifle and machine gun at Barikowt showed that the regime has failed in dropping supplies to the beseiged troop in the garrison.

Except for a bomb blast in the out-patients section of the military accademy hospital on January 22, the Afghan capital remained calm and peaceful for the week ending January 27.

The diplomats also reported a slackening of the security situation in the Afghan capital which they said was "lower than at any time during the last year."

169 Karmal Soldiers Killed

GF291924 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] In a series of operations against the infidel enemy forces, our mujahidin brothers damaged 30 enemy positions in Ahangaran Pass in Bamian Province, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemies of our religion and country.

According to a mujahidin source, during these operations which lasted several days, our mujahidin brothers, despite bitter cold, succeeded in killing more than 169 soldiers of the Karmal regime and its Soviet masters and destroying 27 tanks. Four enemy soldiers defected from the Karmal mercenaries to the mujahidin side.

A mujahidin brother said that the Soviet forces are so afraid of mujahidin operations that they have now laid barbed wire around their airfield at Shindand.

The barbed wire fences stand 1 meter high and 5 meters deep.

This mujahidin member who has been fighting the infidel forces for the past 4 years added that some 20 villages have been surrounded with barbed wire fences and there are only 2 gates on the perimeter of the airfield. He said that only Soviet troops guard these gates.

This situation has raised the morale of our mujahidin brothers.

They believe, with the grace of God, that they will be able to destroy all these steel fences like cobwebs.

3 Soviets Killed During Qandahar 'Robbery'

LD282124 Riyadh SPA in English 1910 GMT 28 Jan 85

[Text] London, Jan 28, SPA — Three Soviet soldiers were killed as they carried out a robbery in a Qandahar hotel gambling den, the AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY reported today.

During the incident, which took place on January 15, the Soviet held [as received] up the gamblers and cleared the tables of cash.

As they were attempting to rob Parcham officials, they opened fire with Kalashnikovs, killing three of the soldiers, the agency said.

Gandhi Discusses Summit, Punjab, Bhopal Tragedy

BK291621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed the reported willingness of President General Ziaul Haq to try in court the hijackers of the Indian aircraft who are in Pakistan's custody. Replying to questions in separate interviews with American and British television networks — CBS, NBC, and BBC — he said it is a good first step towards improvement of relations between the two countries. India, he said, appreciates this.

Mr Gandhi, however, expressed concern over Pakistan's going ahead with its nuclear program. He said there have been reports to this effect in the Western press and India has reasons to believe that Pakistan is developing a nuclear bomb. Mr Gandhi reiterated India's commitment to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He said India will never make nuclear weapons, even though it has had this capability for the last 11 years.

In reply to a question, Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that the New Delhi declaration of the six-nation summit will create world opinion in favor of nuclear disarmament. At least one of the two superpowers — the Soviet Union — responded positively to the joint appeal of May last on nuclear disarmament. The six leaders will be visiting different nuclear power nations in the next few months and will impress upon them the dangers of nuclear holocaust and will carry the message of the New Delhi summit.

Referring to the Punjab problem, the prime minister said the government has taken some initiative to solve it. He said the real problem is not created by the Sikhs in India, but by some Sikhs living abroad. Mr Gandhi said the government is willing at all times to find a solution to the problem within the framework of the Constitution. It is in no way true that Sikhs are being discriminated against. They are more prosperous than others in India, he added.

About the Bhopal gas tragedy, Mr Gandhi said we feel that there had been some irregularities in running the plant by the Union Carbide. It is felt that there might be some lacunae in the design of the plant. He said the government has provided relief to the victims, but pointed out that the multinational should also provide adequate relief to them.

Referring to India's progress in various fields, Mr Gandhi said with the new mood of the country it can move forward at a very fast rate. Whenever India has faced a challenge, people have risen to the occasion to meet it boldly.

Further on Visit by Mexico's De la Madrid

Holds Meeting With Gandhi

BK291635 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The Mexican president, Mr Miguel de la Madrid, and the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, reviewed the international situation and bilateral relations at a meeting in New Delhi today. During the 75-minute meeting, they discussed the latest developments in Central America and the Indian subcontinent.

An official spokesman said that the two leaders will meet tomorrow in a formal session. In today's talks, the Mexican president was assisted by his foreign minister, Mr Bernardo Sepulveda, and the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr G. Parthasarathy, assisted the prime minister. Officials of the two countries also met to discuss in detail similar matters.

Speaks on World Economy

FL292136 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1835 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] New Delhi, India, 29 Jan (NOTIMEX) — President Miguel de la Madrid today called for dialogue between producers and consumers which will contribute to stabilizing the international petroleum market and avoiding sharp fluctuations, which hurt everyone.

The president said that just as in the 1970's, the current situation calls for effective dialogue to stabilize the international crude oil market and to make it predictable without fluctuations.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by Indian President Giani Zail Singh, the Mexican president also requested that the industrialized countries cancel their protectionist and restrictive policies which limit the exports of developing nations.

He also said they should dismantle the protectionist arsenal they have accumulated during the crisis, as well as so-called voluntary restrictions and demands for reciprocity.

He said: It is not acceptable for our nation to let trade depend on private foreign capital.

A few hours earlier, the Mexican delegation was received at the presidential palace, where it will stay beginning today, when the official visit to India begins. It ends tomorrow.

The Mexican president said the world economic crisis is an anguishing daily reality. He also said the revitalization in some industrialized nations in the last 2 years seems to weaken even before it reaches the developing economies.

De la Madrid said this is happening because the industrialized countries continue to apply restrictive and protectionist policies, because international financial resources had contracted and the debt service had absorbed disproportionate amounts of funds that could well be used for production and economic growth.

He warned that the world today, and especially the developing countries, will not accept a view of continued stagnation, unemployment, inflation, and inequality. There has been such a recession that many countries will have to spend the rest of the decade recovering levels of production and investment that they had attained earlier.

Miguel de la Madrid said Mexico has recognized that the crisis itself requires, above all, an internal reordering and

transformation of development strategies, but he stressed that it is shirking its responsibility and is making a strong effort to establish firm and decisive bases.

The 12-page message also expressed the importance of cooperation in the international community, in order to respond to the serious situation involving all the industrialized countries and the developing countries, and requested that world trade be restored to its role as the engine of growth.

He also urged the setting of prices of basic products. The cumulative decline in these prices has contributed noticeably to the insufficiency of investments and foreign currency in developing countries and, consequently, to the decline in their ability to pay for the importation of raw materials needed by our economies.

He also touched on the problem of foreign indebtedness and said this problem requires concerted solutions among the debtors, creditors, internal financial organizations, and the world banking community.

A direct political dialogue should be established that allows for dealing with the broadest aspects of the problem and creating a framework of co-responsibilities to solve it, he said, as he explained the manner in which Mexico has managed to successfully confront this situation through internaitonal cooperation.

He pointed out that the drop in interest rates in 1984 is not sufficient and warned of the urgent need to set substantially lower rates which realistically take into account the ability to pay.

Elsewhere in his speech, President de la Madrid referred to economic relations between Mexico and India and bilateral relations between the two countries. He favored strengthening ties in all possible areas.

He stated that Mexico favors bilateral cooperation to recover ground lost in the international crisis and pointed out that this state visit serves to consolidate ambitions and to create a highly productive relationship.

He announced the opening here of an office of the Mexican Institute of Foreign Trade and an upcoming visit by a mission of Mexican businessmen from public and private sectors in order to encourage cooperation in both sectors.

Finally, he pointed out that for 1985-87 plans have been made for frequent cultural exchanges, events, and expositions — among them an Olmec culture exhibit — with India in order to strengthen the ties of friendship in this field.

Feted by Zail Singh

BK300512 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has said that the six-nation initiative on nuclear disarmament represents the timely voice of the peoples of all regions and continents of the world. Speaking at a banquet in honor of the visiting president of Mexico, Mr Miguel de la Madrid, Giani Zail Singh said for the developing world, representing the overwhelming mass of humanity, disarmament and development are inextricably linked. It is imperative to divert more resources for the cause of development. Giani Zail Singh said the voice of the nonnuclear weapons states, coming at a time when the dialogue on arms between the two superpowers is being resumed, needs to be heard, respected, and acted upon. Along with the resumption of the dialogue on disarmament, it is essential to resume the North-South dialogue with renewed political will and commitment.

President Zail Singh expressed confidence that the visit of the Mexican president to India and his talks will give further impetus to the promotion of trade and consolidating and diversifying cultural and economic exchanges.

In his reply, Mr De la Madrid expressed concern at the stagnation of economic negotiations between the industrialized North and the developing South. He said Mexico will continue together with India and others to work to strengthen multilateral negotiations.

Mexico, India To Increase Business Cooperation

FL300050 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Jan 85

[By Gregorio Alpizar Estrada]

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Jan (NOTIMEX) — Mexico and India will increase their cooperation in the areas of trade, technological exchange, and the production of capital goods, it was announced today at the end of the first round of conversations between the two governments.

The Mexican under secretary of commerce and industrial development, Mauricio de Maria y Campos, told the press that President Miguel de la Madrid and prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, with their respective delegations, had reviewed the principal points of bilateral contact.

He said the Indian Government had authorized a $10 million line of bank credit for exports to Mexico and that the Mexican Bank of Foreign Trade will take similar action in the next few days. He mentioned Indian interest in obtaining Mexican expertise in drilling, extracting, exploiting, and processing crude oil. At the present time, India imports 30 percent of its hydrocarbons and produces 1 million barrels of crude oil daily.

The iron and steel industry, the capital goods industry in general — for the development of machinery and equipment — the petrochemical and chemical-pharmaceutical industries, and the so-called high technologies, such as electronics and biotechnology, were identified as possible areas of bilateral trade.

De Maria y Campos explained that the Mexican delegation had brought along a list of concrete proposals for specific sectors so the negotiations and agreements would be more than mere words: We have observed great enthusiasm and a will to avoid generalizations and adopt selective programmed goals that permit us to draw realistic conclusions.

He said the main goal is to intensify bilateral trade and technological exchange, which decreased at the onset of the present international crisis, which created a shortage of foreign exchange in the two countries.

The Mexican official said that, in this cooperation, Mexico and India will seek the diversification of activities not as traditional partners, but in new, imaginative activities.

He confirmed the fact that, in March 1985, a Mexican trade mission consisting of the representatives of private and public enterprises will visit New Delhi to put into practical effect the agreements reached during the present visit.

Sri Lankan Navy Attacks Fishermen 29 Jan

BK291559 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] The 17 Indian fishermen who were in the custody of the Sri Lanka Government have been handed over to the Indian Coast Guards. PTI, quoting the district collector of Ramanathapuram, says 10 of the boats, which were captured along with the fishermen by the Sri Lanka Navy for alleged trespass, have already reached Rameswaram. The report also said that the Sri Lankan Navy today again attacked a group of Indian fishermen and their mechanized fishing boats at (Kundoipark) near Rameswaram and snatched away their catch. According to the Fishermen's Association secretary, Mr Fernendo, some of the boats were damaged in the attack.

Accord Reached With Argentina To Increase Trade

BK290452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] India and Argentina have agreed to increase their trade. This follows talks between the visiting Argentine minister for foreign trade, Mr Ricardo Campero, and the commerce secretary, Mr Prem Kumar, in New Delhi.

The two sides also agreed to set up joint ventures in third countries. Mr Campero said a trade delegation will visit India next month to negotiate contracts for bilateral trade.

More Lok Sabha Election Results Announced

BK300356 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpt] The Congress-I and the Telugu Desam Party have won two seats each, while the Dravida Munetra Kazhagam bagged one of the five Lok Sabha seats whose results were declared last night. Polling in these constituencies was held on Monday.

In Bhopal, the Congress-I candidate, Mr K.M. Pradhan, has been declared elected.

He defeated his nearest Bharatiya Janata Party rival, Mr L.N. Sharma, by a margin of over 128,000 votes.

With this, the party has made a clean sweep of all the 40 Lok Sabha seats from Madhya Pradesh.

Briefs

TV Relay Stations— The country will have 177 TV relay centers by the end of March this year. Giving this information in the lower house of Parliament during question time today, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Mr V.N. Gadgil, said as on the 1st of this month 49 percent of the population was covered by the TV network. The coverage would go up to 70 percent with the setting up of more transmission towers. Tribal areas will be given priority during the seventh plan period. [Text] [*Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 22 Jan 85 BK*]

National Income Increases— The country's national income in 1983-84 recorded an increase of 7.6 percent in real terms as against 1.6 percent during the previous year. This was revealed in quick estimates made by the Central Statistical Organization of the Ministry of Planning. The per capita income in real terms also increased by 5.2 percent during 1983-84 over the previous year. An official press note released in the estimate says performance of the economy during 1983-84 was laudable. [Text] [*Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jan 85 BK*]

Inflation Rate Decreases— The annual rate of inflation came down to 5.2 percent on the 5th of this month compared to 10.6 percent at the same time last year. Stating this in the Lok Sabha today, the finance minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said in a written reply that the focus of government's policy is on efficient demand and supply management. He also informed the house that there was a 7 percent fall in remittances from Indians working in Gulf countries last year. The deposits of nonresident Indians have also declined. He attributed the decline to the restriction of oil production by the Gulf countries and the subsequent fall in the tempo of developmental activities engaging Indian workers. [Excerpts] [*Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 85 BK*]

Further on Iraqi Offensive on Majnun Islands

Iraqis Lose Over 200

LD291742 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Pr, Jan 29, IRNA — More than 200 Iraqi troops were killed and many others were wounded in their futile attack against the Islamic forces in the southern tip of the Majnun Island Monday.

IRNA correspondents who visited the battle scene Tuesday, reported that despite heavy fire from the ground and the air, the Iraqi forces failed to advance against Iranian positions.

The enemy attack began at 03:00 a.m. (23:30 GMT Sunday) Monday when their forces tried to move towards the positions of the Islamic forces with 20 troop-carrying boats, supported by heavy artillery fire, 10 helicopter gunships and several fighter planes.

Some of the Iraqi soldiers who finally got to Iranian bunkers at 09:00 A.M. (05.30 GMT), were killed in hand-to-hand fighting. Many of the enemy troops drowned in the Hur al-Heoveizeh Marshlands [name as received]

Seven enemy boats were also destroyed in the battle.

The Islamic forces came under attack from four or five enemy fighter-bombers, which carried out nine raids in the theater.

But because of the high altitude of the planes, none of the attacks inflicted losses of men or weaponry on the Iranian fortifications.

When IRNA reporters arrived, a group of Iranian combatants were removing remnants of yesterday's fighting.

The Majnun Island, in the southern border region of the two countries, was captured by the Islamic forces last February in Operation Khaybar.

It has oil resoruces estimated at eight billion barrels.

Joint Staff Communique No 1,987

LD291808 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan, 29, IRNA — The Islamic combatants have completed mopping up operations in the southern Majnun Island where they foiled an Iraqi offensive on Monday.

Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1987, issued today, said the Iraqi forces attacked the island using artillery fire and air support at 03:00 a.m. on Monday (23:30 GMT, Sunday) but encountered fierce fire of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic and the Havaniruz (air support for the ground forces). The region was completely mopped up of Iraqi forces by 13:00 hours (09:30 hours GMT) with the aggressor Iraqi forces suffering heavy casualties. Meanwhile, one civilian was martyred, and eight others wounded, in Abadan Monday as a result of Iraqi shelling. Eight houses and shops were also damaged, the communique said.

In the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam more than 13 light and heavy weaponry positions were destroyed and at least 30 enemy troops were killed or wounded, Monday.

In the north western fronts of Piranshah, Sar Dasht and Marivan, the Islamic combatants smashed parts of the enemy's frontline positions and knocked out eight light and heavy engineering vehicles and killed several of their personnel.

In battle action in the Arvand River front, the Iraqi fire was silenced and their engineering activities were halted. The Iranian forces destroyed more than 15 Iraqi heavy and light weaponry positions, one munitions depot and two vehicles.

Communique No 1,988

LD292117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Communique No 1,988 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the crushing blows delivered at the Ba'thist Iraqi Armed Forces by the forces of Islam, and following the complete defeat of their disgraceful move in the southern sector of the Majnun Islands, the declining regime of Saddam, in keeping with its usual, savage reactions in the face of the victories of the fighters of Islam, has announced that it will target its missile attacks and bombardments on Iranian towns and residential areas.

Therefore, in complete strength, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran warns the mercenary and puppet Ba'thist regime of Iraq that should the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces repeat their former crimes, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while apologizing to the Muslim Iraqi nation — as it has done in the past in accordance with its religious duty — will retaliate and will show such reaction toward these criminal murderers that it will serve as another lesson to them.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commentary on Reasons for Attack

GF292002 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary from the "Behind the News" program]

[Text] Brothers, the day before yesterday the fleeing troops of the Baghdad regime suffered heavy losses in personnel and materiel when they tried to cross the lines of the Muslim forces in the southern part of the liberated Majnun Islands. These troops were forced back, leaving behind scores of killed and wounded.

According to military observers, the failed Ba'thist attack on the liberated Majnun Islands the day before yesterday does not carry any military value whatsoever. The regime did not reap any military benefits except to prepare the proper ground for a

massive propaganda campaign, which the regime in Baghdad is currently in dire need of. This aim became clear yesterday when the Ba'thist media organs launched a propaganda campaign that talked about imaginary victories whose only foundation was in the minds of those fabricating Ba'thist military communiques and statements.

The Baghdad rulers used military principles that recommend military maneuvers or limited operations amid conditions of waiting and expectation in order to unfreeze the military situation and raise its Armed Forces' morale. Despite the expected results from an attack, the Baghdad regime, in view of its situation, adventured the attack. It did so in spite of the negative aspects of such an attack and the expected defeat with the following intentions:

1. To exploit this attack, even if it failed, as grounds for a propaganda campaign to raise the collapsing morale of Iraqi soldiers.

2. In view of the regime's dubious political and economic situation on the international arena, it wants, through such operations, to improve its situation on the international level through imaginary control of the situation and military action.

3. In military science and in the course of battle, one of the conflicting parties might resort to abortive attacks in order to foil an expected attack from the other side. The failed Ba'thist attack on the Majnun Islands may have been an attempt to foil the expected Islamic attack, the waiting for which has exhausted the Baghdad regime's forces. The regime imagined that it could affect the morale of the Muslim forces through a demonstration of such an operation.

What happened in the southern part of the Majnun Islands the day before yesterday resembles the allegations made by the Baghdad regime some time last year when it claimed that it had besieged the city of Mehran and then said it retreated the same day, explaining this as a sign of strength and capability. Will what happened last year take place again? Will the regime surprise us by announcing its retreat from the imaginary targets which it has claimed to have occupied? This allegation is completely baseless.

Low Iraqi Morale Cited

GF300646 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0453 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary entitled: "The Fall of the Iraqi Ba'th Is the Sole Way of Ending the War"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The suicidal attempt by the aggressor Iraqi Army in the form of an unsuccessful limited attack at the fronts of the imposed war again proved the just position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the undeniable fact that until the center of mischief is completely extinguished in Baghdad, a lasting peace will not be possible.

Such attacks are viewed as reactions that result from complete confusion and despair associated with repeated and killing defeats rather than military moves. Now it is clear to everyone that their involvement in the imposed war has not benefited the world's superpowers and their regional supporters.

The Iraqi aggressor regime is angry because, having accepted the role of being an agent for international oppression in imposing the war on the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is now forced to pay the price of certain failure and is in fear and despair because irrespective of all the arms, economic, and propaganda support of the international oppression, its collapse is imminent. All the aggressor Saddam regimes' reactions — the most powerful media facilities of the oppression and Zionism are trying their best to portray them as military moves — stems from this despair and the feeling of utter hopelessness that all the organizations of the aggressor regime now feel.

What the world is witnessing in the Persian Gulf and the fronts of the imposed war in the west and south of Iran makes it unnecessary for us to cite details. There is no doubt that the aggressor Iraqi Army has lost its internal cohesion, having been dealt mortal blows. The forces of the Saddamist army have no motive to continue a war that does not benefit them and causes heavy losses. Keeping Iraqi soldiers and officers in a continuous state of alert has completely confused them. Despair, hopelessness, and an uncertain future are looming, together with the question of why they are fighting the Muslim people of Iran and for whom they are fighting. This has completely disarmed them psychologically. Such facts are shown repeatedly by captured Iraqi soldiers. Their surrender does not leave any room for argument.

It is also clear that the passage of time and the continuing imposed war has eradicated many false assumptions that were created by the racist propaganda of the Ba'thist Iraqi leaders. The officers and soldiers of Saddam's army have gradually realized that they are being used in an inhuman way to achieve the goals of international oppression. Naturally, no intelligent human can freely risk his life for goals he does not have faith in or goals not in the interest of his country or himself. The lack of any goals in the mercenary Iraqi Army stems from this fact. One should also not ignore the effect of the forced drafting of soldiers from towns and villages on the lack of goals.

We believe that the latest move by the aggressor Iraqi regime is directly tied with the shaky situation within the Zionist Saddam regime. It is a general rule that dictatorships need to justify themselves or they will collapse; this is a powerful internal force. The aggressive Iraqi regime is in such a situation and naturally needs to be noticed. The propaganda uproar by the mass media of the oppressive world in attempting to portray a limited reaction as a military move is proof of this opinion. It is not very difficult to predict that Saddam will be giving medals of valor in the next few days, amidst great fanfare, to a number of traitorous party agents within the Iraqi mercenary Army for their timely escape from the fronts of the imposed war or that his international supporters will start a wave of false propaganda!

We can also guess that the United States will force a number of its regional agents such as Jordan's King Husayn to send cables of support for the Zionist Saddam or that the regime occupying Palestine will show its happiness through a totally false commen-

tary from the voice of the Zionists. However, it is certain that such moves will not be able to inject any enthusiasm into a defeated army that has lost all its morale, especially the kind of morale that would be able to delay the collapse of the aggressor Iraqi regime in such a manner that its regional and international supporters are able to prepare new aggressive plans in time.

The decisive position of the warriors of Islam in the face of the latest action by the aggressor Iraqi Army on the Majnun Islands and its timely defeat does not leave any room for doubt that Iran will continue to insist on its just position and that it will continue its justifiable defense until the achievement of all that it has already announced.

The end of the war will be the final collapse of the aggressor regime in Iraq. No one should doubt this. Delaying the time for the achievement of this goal will not help anyone or any power in the region or abroad. We accept that facing such facts requires special courage. However, there is no other way. Saddam and his various supporters will finally have to face the fact that Saddam will be going.

Iraq Accused of Intensifying Tension in Gulf

LD291421 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29 IRNA — The Iraqi regime has initiated a new stage in creating tension in the Persian Gulf in order to spread the 'tanker war' to the waters of other Persian Gulf states and to create some kind of unrestrained anarchy and blackmail." 9 This was announced by a spokesman for the War Information Headquarters of the Supreme Defence Council, in an interview with IRNA Tuesday.

The spokesman said a Greek oil tanker and a Dutch barge had been hit by Iraqi fighter planes near the southern coasts of the Persian Gulf in the past week.

He added that investigations conducted in this respect indicate that the war-mongering Baghdad regime, "disappointed with all its fascistic measures," has now resorted to some kind of anarchy in creating tension in the Persian Gulf.

The WIH spokesman described these Iraqi aggressions as a blatant violation of international marine laws and a transgression of the territories of other countries not involved in the Iraqi imposed war.

This scheme, he said, aims at involving these countries in this unwanted war.

According to military information, the spokesman said, the Iraqi attack on the Greek-registered oil tanker *Sefiros*, which was heading for Kuwait, took place at 17:50 hours (14:20 GMT) on Sunday while an Iraqi super fe.:.oine helicopter had been seen in the south of Ra's al Bishah functioning as a radar relaying post.

He said the new point in this regard was that two other jet fighters from the south western coasts had entered the scene apparently to intercept the Iraqi planes.

The spokesman emphasised that security in the Persian Gulf was in the interest of all the countries in this region and that this unrestrained Iraqi anarchy to make the Persian Gulf insecure must be prevented. He concluded by saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran will undoubtedly support the Persian Gulf countries in their defence against the sea, air and ground aggressions of the Iraqi regime, a defence the main responsibility of which would rest upon these states themselves.

Commentary Accuses Iraq of Tanker Attacks in Gulf

GF292038 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In less than 2 weeks three oil tankers have been attacked by Iraqi planes in Saudi territorial waters. Last week a tanker was attacked near Ra's Tannurah, followed by a second tanker near the entrance to Dubayy port. A third tanker owned by a Greek company was attacked while sailing from Ra's Tannurah toward Kuwaiti ports. If anyone tries to put the blame for these attacks on another side, we will tell them that these accusations are baseless and devoid of truth. Such allegations have even been denied by the crews of the attacked tankers. Crew members who escaped unharmed during these attacks have said that they did not see any traces of fighter planes in the region.

These simple statements make the identity of the attacking planes clear. The planes used by the Baghdad regime in its sea piracy operations are Super Etendards which can be used at long distances [from their targets]. Such strategy is corroborated by the fact that the regime does not currently have more than four planes, according to most reports, rendering the regime wary of sending them deep into Gulf territory. The Baghdad regime is also afraid of Islamic retaliation either by fighter planes or ground-to-air missiles. It has used these planes from a distance so that they cannot be recognized by the attacked tankers and ships.

The fact that the identity of the attacking planes has not been proven does not mean that this issue has been forgotten. These attacks carry within them the real dimensions of the Baghdad regime's policy on what is called the tanker war. This war began with attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti ships and has now gone back to where it began. If Baghdad has previously apologized to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for attacks it said happened by mistake, what will it say now?

After reaching a dead end in its diplomatic endeavors, the Baghdad regime's strategy has been changed to threaten the security and safety of the region. This change of strategy is based on the following: either the regime or nobody else. That is why it is lighting the wick of a total inferno. Accordingly, the states of the region and their governments are called upon to act cautiously and accurately in the wake of these developments which are aimed at all, without exception, and to recognize that the costs of the Super Etendard planes and the Exocet missiles have been met by Gulf resources.

Reporters Invited To Visit 30 Iraqi POWs

LD291809 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — Following the Islamic Republic's announcement to unilaterally repatriate 30 Iraqi POWs, the war information headquarters today invited all domestic and foreign reporters to visit the captives before their repatriation.

Interested reporters can refer to the central Military Police headquarters in Fatemi Street at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday.

Bushehr Region Declares Red Alert Condition

GF291636 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1631 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] According to a report just received, a red alert condition has been declared for the Bushehr region. [sound of siren]

Libyan, Syrian, Iranian Ministers Cable ICO

LD291857 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Following the Tehran tripartite session of the foreign ministers of Libya, Syria and the Islamic Republic of Iran, held to coordinate Muslim and progressive countries in the struggle against imperialism and Zionism in connection with the recent moves by the Zionist regime to transfer Ethiopian Jews in collaboration with the Sudanese regime, a letter was sent by the three foreign ministers to Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

The letter reads:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. His excellency Dr Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, honorable secretary general of the ICO.

As you are aware, following the disgraceful Camp David agreement, which led to the then Egyptian president traveling to Jerusalem and his recognizing the existence of the Zionist enemy, the Islamic world has again witnessed another great treason against the Islamic ideals of the Palestinian nation and a great service to international Zionism.

The Sudanese regime openly collaborated with the Zionist enemy and transferred thousands of Ethiopian Jews to occupied territories. This treasonable act, planned by the leaders of international Zionism in line with their strategy to gather the world's Jews in the so-called promised land, in which the Sudanese regime plays a deliberate part, gave the Zionist racists the chance to embark on a cursed course of action to attract public opinion, especially that of the black people of Africa.

No doubt this action of the Sudanese regime is another step toward strengthening the existence of the Zionist enemy and weakening the position of Islamic countries.

We now raise the question: If such treasonable acts by some ICO member-countries continue in contravention of the charter and all the approvals and resolutions of the conference regarding the Zionist enemy — the most important and basic issue for all Muslims — what credibility will the ICO have in the future?

We, the foreign ministers of Syria, Iran and Libya, believe that the ICO has a grave task at this juncture. It should consider all the existing evidence and appraise the recent act by the Sudanese regime, without any form of political consideration and make the necessary decision to confront this action and punish the Sudanese regime so that the stance of the ICO against the Zionist enemy is clarified.

We once again take the opportunity to pay our respects.

[Signed] 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam Turayki; Faruq al-Shar', 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Al-Turayki on 'Harmony' of Views

LD291037 Tripoli JANA in English 0948 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jumada Awal 7, Jan. 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau stressed that meetings that took place in Tehran between the Jamahiriyah, Syria and Iran have been in favor of the peoples of the three countries.

He said to the Iranian press before leaving Tehran yesterday, these meetings are only directed against imperialism, Zionism and reactionary forces allied with it.

He pointed out that such meetings will be more and more expanded, in a continuous regular manner, in the three countries through conferences, organizations and international bodies.

He went on to say, the conspiracies that are plotted against us, would encourage us more not only to alliance among ourselves but to alliance among all peace-loving forces.

The secretary stressed that, the defeat of imperialism is easy thanks to the determination of our peoples and our capabilities. We are not only expressing the feelings of our peoples in the Jamahiriyah, Iran and Syria, we are, in fact, expressing the expectations of the Islamic peoples who are suffering under agent and reactionary regimes collaborating with imperialism, peoples who are inspired by us and eager to be in immediate contact with us.

Dr. al-Turayki pointed out that cooperation between the Jamahiriyah, Iran and Syria will have positive effects on the joint struggle.

He said, 'By standing shoulder to shoulder, we will be able to fight back aggression and to defeat the aggression directed against our peoples and against the Islamic peoples because our meeting is a meeting for goodness, not meeting for evil, it is a meeting for the future, the meeting of peoples fighting against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, we have to have a joint act to confront the problems that we are subjected to'. He stressed that

Jamahiriyah, Iran and Syria are bound by one revolutionary struggle line and that their viewpoints on different Islamic and world matters are in full harmony.

He went on to say, 'The Jamahiriyah and Syria considered the Iranian revolution, after its victory, a natural ally and that it is a huge asset for the joint struggle against Zionism and imperialism and for the realization of the liberation of Arab and Islamic land.' He pointed out that the Jamahiriyah was the only Arab country that refused to establish relations with agent shah regime. In his announcement he stressed that the Islamic revolution is a big gain for the Islamic nation and for world liberation forces.

Dr. al-Turayki stressed that joint coordination among the Jamahiriyah, Syria and Iran has strengthened the three countries' ability to resist the imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots in the region, and that the most outstanding profit was the abrogation of the treaty of submission that was imposed on the Lebanese people, who succeeded in defeating NATO and Zionist forces.

He said, this success has encouraged us towards more coordination, whereby Tehran meeting was held to discuss all world issues and to take specific stands on them.

Iran, Turkey, Pakistan Revive Economic Pact

TA291802 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1555 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran: 29/1. (AA) — Deputy foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran and Pakistan agreed to revive the former Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) Pact and to rename their joint economic ties the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

In their meeting at Tehran Monday, Turkish Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Necdet Tezel and his Iranian and Pakistani colleagues Hussein Kazim Pour Ardebeli and Niyazi Niak, decided to form four committees on economic infrastructure, industrial and technical cooperation, agricultural cooperation, education and science.

The infrastructure and the educational and scientific committees will hold their first meeting in Ankara in April, while the other two committees will meet in Islamabad in May

The committees will report to the Supreme Planning Council, consisting of deputy planning ministers of the three countries, who will meet in Islamabad in July to prepare the grounds for the next ECO meeting in the same month. The site of the next meeting is not announced yet.

Iran's Ambassador to GDR Confers with Musavi

LD301036 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Iran's ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Hamid Reza Assefi met and conferred with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Wednesday morning.

During the meeting, the ambassador reported to the prime minister on Iran-GDR bilateral relations and Musavi issued necessary guidelines in this respect.

Montazeri Reviles Supporters of Iraqi Regime

LD301205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] On the eve of the Fatemiyeh period [anniversary of death of the Prophet's daughter, Fatima] and Ten Days of Dawn, this morning, after secular lessons, while announcing that his lecture would not take place next week because of the above events, Ayatollah Montazeri said: Now that there have been no lectures for over a week, it would be very appropriate for the committed ulema to take this opportunity to go to the war fronts for religious propaganda among their brothers the combatants.

Addressing the reactionary leaders in the region, he said: I do not know what you gain by supporting this madman in Iraq who has devastated the region. You do not know that Saddam is beyond rational thought and behaves insanely. What could you gain from such a dangerous madman, except for America to force you to spend the money, oil and all the possessions of your nations so that the regime of a corrupt and insane individual may last for a few more days? If, instead of going to Baghdad and signing agreements with that madman, you had come to Iran, this land of Islam and the Koran, and sworn allegiance with this model of knowledge, peity and Islam, and instead of yielding to an American actor, you had stretched the hand of brotherhood towards the Islamic Republic of Iran, without doubt, it would have been more beneficial for yourselves and for your Muslim and oppressive nations.

You should know that these American pawns — like Saddam or that other lackey in Sudan, who executed a 70-year-old religious wiseman for defending Islam — will soon be gone and the nations will soon be freed. Today, collaborating or remaining silent in face of the crimes and suppression of Saddam and other American lackeys, in whatever form, is haram [religiously prohibited].

Montazeri Addresses Supreme Court Justices

LD291945 Tehran IRNA in English 1923 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri said Monday the way has been prepared for the formation and establishment of an Islamic Government in its real and literal sense, involving the implementation of divine laws in the society.

Speaking to justices of the Supreme Court in Qom, he said although the basic laws of Islam in the legal and economic fields have been mentioned in the traditional books on jurisprudence, they were not in an organised form because of the ulema were kept away from the issues concerning an Islamic state. [sentence as received]

He said now that an Islamic Republic has emerged in Iran, the ulema have an obligation to form special committees to formulate general laws for use of the state.

Khamene'i: Possible To Attain Islamic State
LD291625 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan 29, IRNA — The third conference on Islamic thought opened here today to discuss the concept of an Islamic state, with a highly-commended speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i who said Muslims' hopes to create an Islamic government was no longer a "high-flying imagination."

"Today the world of Islam has the support of one billion Muslims and it is proper for us to think practically and seriously of creating an Islamic state," Khamene'i said.

"Fifty years ago, when Islamic thinkers were pondering on the future of Islam, their biggest hope was to set up a few Islamic universities and a few printing presses for Islamic books.

"While, in fact, today a government has been created on the basis of the book (Koran) and the Sunna (Islamic traditions) in the most sensitive region of the world and the dream of an Islamic state is no longer a high-flying imagination," he added.

The president said: "Under this sky, the Islamic Republic of Iran is the only country where temporal and constitutional laws that do not conform to Islamic jurisprudence are immediately rejected."

However, he also said that "We don't claim to have created the government of the prophet (Mohammad, S.A.W.), but we do claim that we are moving in that direction."

The conference is attended by 80 scholars and ulema from Muslim and non-Muslim countries as well as over 400 Iranian ulema and thinkers, who will hold lectures and debates for three days.

Khamene'i stressed that any nation which believes in Islam should "inevitably" consider the establishment of an Islamic state, or else they either have no belief in Islam or do not understand it correctly.

As for the leader of an Islamic state, he said Islam has set indisputable conditions for the ruler of an Islamic state, such as piety and necessary Islamic knowledge.

"It is not this way (in Islam) that any adulterer, libertine and debaucher could become the head of a state only by relying on the people's vote.

"The people's vote is a determining factor only when the can(didate has the necessary qualifications and if he lacks them, his election would not give him legitimacy."

The president of the Islamic Republic also severely criticised the Organisation of the Islamic Conference for being one of the "most useless" world body [as received] in existence.

"As the head of a country that is a member of the OIC, I lay a claim that the OIC is one of the most useless world bodies," he said.

"It does not defend the rights of Muslims, does not take a stance against their enemies, and it does not spread the message of Islam...

"What has the OIC done to defend this Islamic country (Iran)? ...If the OIC and its members are based on Islam and defending Islam, why don't they confront (Zionist-Western propaganda against Iran)? Why does the mass media in many of these Islamic countries work against the Islamic Republic?"

The other speaker in the morning session was the conference organiser and head of the Islamic Propagation Organisation, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati.

He said the Islamic society could not achieve divine goals without an Islamic government.

The ruler of an Islamic state, Jannati said, could only be a fully qualified member of the ulema.

Another point raised in his speech was the key role of ijtihad (practice of jurisprudence according to the needs of the time). He said all Islamic concepts, other than the basic ones, are debatable and "statements (of jurisprudents) of the past are not definitive."

Musavi Briefs Khomeyni on Recent Trip
LD291147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Prime Minister Musavi was received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning. The Prime minister submitted a report on his recent trip to Turkey, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela.

Khomeyni Pardons Prisoners on Revolution Anniversary
LD301018 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tabriz, E. Azarbayjan Pr., Jan. 30, IRNA — On the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and as part of the ten-day dawn ceremonies (Feb. 1-11) marking the occasion, a large number of prisoners in Tabriz, who are pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, will be freed, said Hojjat Ol Eslam Amini supervisor of the Tabriz prison here today.

He further pointed out that following the approval of the high judicial council any time it was proven that the prisoners have repented their past deeds, they would be discharged of the prison immediately.

On the welfare programs for the prisoners, he said that every day at least ten of the inmates were sent to their families on a three-day leave.

Furthermore, they have been provided with sports facilities, are engaged in various workshops of the prison, while being also provided with special literacy classes.

Clandestine Cites Physician on Khomeyni's Health

GF291730 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] An Iranian eye physician who had been treating Khomeyni reported that during an examination he discovered that the 80 year-old leader of the Islamic Republic had irrevocably lost his eyesight. As a result, this physician was charged by the revolution court in Hoseyniyeh Jamaran with disclosing the results of his examination and was severely reprimanded.

This particular eye physician in a special meeting with his colleagues had reported that the physical condition of Ruhollah Khomeyni was far from good and thus a British, Turkish, and eastern country physician were called to Tehran to treat Khomeyni.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Interior Deputies

LD300847 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran at present was not facing a major political problem inside the country.

Rafsanjani was speaking in a meeting with political deputies of the Interior Ministry at the conclusion of the deputies' three-day seminar in Tehran Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, he called on the Majlis, government organisations and the mass media not to overlook problems created under the pretext of Islam or support for the deprived masses.

Rafsanjani was referring to problems caused by the remnants of the splinter groups who, despite being completely disappointed, would not abandon their deep-rooted hatred against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He emphasised that it was time for campaign against deceits of those who had already been rejected by the public.

The Majlis speaker noted that there were evidences proving that such elements were attempting to prevent implementation to major programs by the institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He called on the government organisations and specially the Interior Ministry to follow up the issue vigilantly and thwart conspiracies which were aimed at exerting pressure on the people.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Warns Against Internal Deceit

GF300730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jan 85

[Excerpts] The political deputies of the national governorate generals' offices met Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday afternoon at the end of their 3-day seminar. During the meeting, the Majlis speaker delivered a comprehensive speech and said: Thank God, currently we have no major political problem in the Islamic Republic. There are, however, instances of deceit that should be watched carefully. We should not be concerned though, because since the victory of the revolution to date, we have all witnessed holy blessings and the guidance of our dear leader.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then noted that these groups have been defeated and though some of them may have lost all hope, they have not forgotten their deep animosity toward the Islamic Republic and said: I have documents and witnesses saying that they have planned a sneaky move and have organized toward this goal.

They are trying to stop the free operations of important organizations in the Islamic Republic in sensitive places. For example, they do whatever they can to destroy managers' peace of mind by creating problems in order to annoy them and make them desperate, thus creating an atmosphere to force out hard working and caring people.

For example I see in the great facilities in Esfahan [presumably the steel mill] that anytime there is the chance for a new move forward, (?they) weaken the management in various forms and stop them from carrying out correct measures.

We have examples in Sarcheshmeh copper complex. As soon as they feel that problems have been eradicated or are being solved, new problems are created in order to stop the orderly progression of work. Another example is the Voice and Vision which they desperately want to infiltrate. They are trying to stop any stability there by changing officials. In universities they become concerned when the students and teachers are active and create an attractive cultural atmosphere. They are also fearful of any solution to economic problems.

When there are movies made domestically and broadcast on television or other places, they try to discourage the artists that have made the films by enlarging the possible problems of such movies. Some religious but simple people also take up their arguments and sometimes even a simpleminded Majlis representative inadvertently helps such moves. Therefore, political deputies must be very aware of this issue and identify irritating moves intend to devour our organizations from within like termites.

Such moves may enter the arena in the name of "Islam," "Workers," or others. I advise the Majlis, Cabinet, the press, information organizations, committees, and the guards not to deal with such disruptions of work lightly. Many of those who cause disruptions may have been deceived but many of them are satans. This is the time to deal with and fight against the disruption and sneakiness of these defeated elements who have been expelled from society. They have lost their honor on earth and are now active underground!

I give you another example of their work: You suddenly see a flood of letters to the Imam's house or the offices of other highranking officials of the country. This is their organizational work aimed at putting pressure on officials and unnerving them. These are sneaky moves by the enemies of the Islamic Republic and all responsible organizations, especially the Interior Ministry, should responsibly deal with such disruptions.

Zali Reports Increased Wheat, Cotton Production
LD291906 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 29 Jan 85

["Domestic Wheat Purchases Up" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 29, IRNA — Despite the drought in some parts of the country, the government was able to buy 1.2 million tons of wheat from farmers, said Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali in an interview today.

He said in the current farming year 220,000 hectares of land was under cotton cultivation which yielded 350,000 tons of cotton of which 100,000 tons has already been processed.

This shows a 15-20 percent increase compared to last year, Zali noted.

Zali added that 15,000 tons of cotton will be exported to Hungary, Bulgaria, and Brazil in the current year.

He also said exporters can export cotton, citrus fruits, apples, summer crops and vegetables, and import packing equipment and machinery need for their trade, in return.

Afghan Mujahidin Launch Attacks Near Herat
LD291142 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 29 Jan 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Province, Jan. 29, IRNA — The Afghan Muslim mujahidin last week killed the commander of state paratroopers in western Afghanistan, it was announced here Monday.

According to mujahidin sources Sher Aqa Chunghar, was killed by the Afghan Muslim combatants while coming out of the state hospital in Herat, where a number of his troops were hospitalised, last Wednesday. Three of commander Chunghar's companions were also killed and two others, including a high-ranking advisor of the Soviet Red Army were injured, the souces added.

Of the three Muslim combatants who launched the attack, one was martyred and two were captured. Meanwhile, Afghan Muslim revolutionaries launched a series of attacks in west and east of Herat against the joint Afghan and Soviet forces, clearing 57 villages of the enemy.

A large number of the joint government and Soviet forces were killed and 20 Afghan troops surrendered to the Muslim revolutionaries, while 50 others were captured. The Afghan Muslim revolutionaries also seized 550 weapons and 650,000 rounds of ammunition from the enemy.

Afghan Rebels Kill Army Commander, 5 Russians
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[Text] The Afghan ruling regime has confessed that one of that regime's army commanders has been killed by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in Herat Province. In its report about the incident, Kabul radio did not reveal the details concerning the death of that commander. However, according to sources close to Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, that commander was killed by Muslim revolutionaries in Herat Province together with two Soviet military advisers and three of their guards.